

Dumby. The youth of the present day are quite monstrous.

They have absolutely no respect for dyed hair.
[Lord Attgustus looks routed]

angrily.

Cecil Graham. Mrs. Erlynne has a very great respect for dear

Tuppy-

Dumby. Then Mrs. Erlynne sets an admirable example to the rest of her sex. It is perfectly brutal the way most women nowadays behave to men who are not their husbands.

Lord Windermere. Dumby, you are ridiculous, and Cecil, you

let your tongue run away with you. You must leave Mrs.

Erlynne alone. You don't really know anything about her,

and you're always talking scandal against her.

Cecil Graham. *[Coming towards him L. C.]* vly dear Arthur, I

never talk scandal. I only talk gossip.

Lord Windermere. ^What is the difference between scandal and

gossip?

Cecil Graham. Oh! gossip is charming! History is mereK"

gossip. But scandal is gossip made tedious by morality.

Now, I never moralize. A man who moralizes is usually a hypocrite, and a woman who moralizes is invariably plain.

There is nothing in the whole world so unbecoming to a woman as a Nonconformist conscience. And most women

know it, I'm glad to say.

Lord Augustus. Just my sentiments, dear boy, just my

sentiments.

Cecil Graham. Sorry to hear it, Tuppy; whenever people agree

with me, I always feel I must be wrong.

Lord Augustus. My dear boy, when I was your age

Cecil Graham. But you never were, Tuppy, and you never will

be. *[Goes up C.]* I say, Darlington, let us have some cards.

You'll play, Arthur, won't you?

Lord Windermere. No, thanks, Cecil.

Dumby. *[With a sigh.]* Good heavens! how marriage ruins a

man! It's as demoralizing as cigarettes, and far more expensive.

Cecil Graham. You'll play, of course, Tuppy?

Lord Atigustus. *[Pouring himself out a brandy and soda at*

table ^ Can't, dear boy. Promised Mrs. Erlynne never to

play or drink again.

Cecil Graham. Now, my dear Tuppy, don't be led astray into

the paths of virtue. Reformed, you would be perfectly

tedious. That is the worst of women.

They always want one to be good. And if we are good, when they meet us,